# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
MINING IN FOREST AREAS
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has made an assessment to determine the extent of the forests that should be kept out of bounds of mining activities;

(b) if so, whether FSI has given its recommendations to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect those forests which are extremely rich in bio-diversity?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has assessed 793 coal blocks based on some of the parameters recommended by a Committee re-constituted under Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to identify inviolate forest areas.

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change after examination of the information received from the Forest Survey of India requested the Forest Survey of India to obtain from Central Water Commission and the Indian Space Research Organisation, hydrological layers being developed by them under India-WRIS WebGIS project and re-assess these blocks by treating areas located within catchment areas of first order perennial streams and area located within 250 meter distance from banks of the perennial streams and boundary of important wetlands (having area more than 10 hectares) & storage reservoirs of water supply/ irrigation/ hydro power projects/ multi-purpose projects as inviolate, irrespective of the value of other parameters and submit a report to the Ministry.

(d) Diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Central Government generally declines approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in case the forest land proposed to be diverted is externally rich in biodiversity.